

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice. Please insert new claims 9-15 as shown below.

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A composition for diagnosing diabetic retinopathy among diabetic mellitus patients by determining the concentration of IgA polypeptide or its fragment in blood, comprising an antibody against IgA polypeptide or its fragment.

10. (New) The composition according to claim 9, wherein IgA polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:1.

11. (New) The composition according to claim 9, wherein the fragment comprises the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2.

12. (New) A detection method for diagnosing diabetic retinopathy among diabetic mellitus patients comprising:

- a) coating a solid phase with an anti-IgA antibody;
- b) adding blood sample to said solid phase;
- c) adding a labeled anti-IgA antibody; and
- d) detecting the immunoreaction by measuring said label, wherein diabetic retinopathy is diagnosed when the measured value is lower than a predetermined value.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said label is a material selected from the group consisting of horseradish peroxidase, glucose-6-phosphatase dehydrogenase, alkaline phosphatase, beta-galactosidase, fluoroisothiocyanate, rhodamine, fluorescein, luciferase, radioisotopes and particles.

14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said predetermined value is 400mg/dL.

15. (New) A kit for diagnosing diabetic retinopathy by determining the concentration of IgA polypeptide of its fragment in blood, comprising an antibody against IgA polypeptide or its fragment.